NEWS from all over the world VIA WIRELESS TELEGRAPH TELEPHONE
by the
JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
1560 BROADWAY, N.Y.C.

VOL. VI. NO. 44. Tuesday, September 26, 1939.

POLISH ARMY'S ONLY JEWISH GENERAL SLAIN IN DEFENSE OF KATTOWICE; GESTAPO EXECUTES HUNDREDS

BRUSSELS, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- The newspaper L'Independence Belge reported from Bucharest today that General Bernard Mond, only Jewish general in the Polish army and commander of the Kattowice garrison, was killed leading a bayonet charge in defense of the city during the early days of the war.

The newspaper also reported that the Gestapo, German secret police, has arrested thousands of Jews in Lodz and executed hundreds of them. The dispatch said the Germans were particularly irritated by the heroism of the Polish Jewish soldiers, which had evoked a special tribute from Marshal Edward Smigly-Rydz, Polish commander-in-chief.

TROPER IN HOLLAND TO STUDY SHIFT OF J.D.C. HEADQUARTERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRY

PARIS, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- Acting upon instructions from New York, Morris C. Troper, European director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, has left for Holland to study the possibilities of moving its headquarters, now temporarily at Anger, to a neutral country. With him went Irwin Rosen, of New York, who will remain in Holland to supervise relief work for Jewish refugees in Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg.

Another American member of the J.D.C. staff, M. Beckelman, is scheduled to leave for the Baltic countries. His trip was decided upon after receipt of advice from the United States Minister at Riga that he is consulting the Latvian authorities about the possibility of enabling the J.D.C. to administer relief to refugees from Poland and that he has asked the American Legation at Kaunas to institute similar negotiations with the Lithuanian authorities.

Meanwhile, the J.D.C. is coping with the problem of maintaining the families of Jewish refugees interned in France and establishing free kitchens for thousands of non-refugee families here and in Belgium who have lost their means of livelihood because establishments for which they worked were liquidated in connection with war requirements. The J.D.C. is also faced with the problem of aiding more than 100,000 Jewish refugees in neutral European countries.

Representatives of the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association in Rumania, Latvia and Lithuania have started registration of Jewish war refugees from Poland who have relatives in the United States, according to advices received by the organization's headquarters here. The registration was stated to be the first move in efforts to bring the refugees in contact with relatives abroad.

Simultaneously, the HIAS-ICA offices here have been informed from London and Amsterdam that more than 3,000 Jews from Bratislava, Prague and Vienna are ready to leave for Palestine but need funds for passage. Zionist quarters in London and Amsterdam have asked the HIAS-ICA to contribute a total of $175,000 toward fare for the refugees.

The HIAS-ICA task, which has been chiefly to aid refugees in emigrating to the United States and Latin American countries, has been made more complicated by the fact that the new French currency laws make it practically impossible to transfer relief funds from France to any foreign neutral country where the refugees are assembled. The same situation is true with regard to the J.D.C., but while the latter organization can send its funds to the respective European countries directly from New York, such procedure is impossible with the HIAS-ICA whose funds are made up from sums contributed in equal parts by the J.D.C., the Jewish Colonization Association and the Council for German Jewry. The latter two bodies, being British organizations, fall under the British currency law which restricts transfer of funds from England. Thus, the HIAS-ICA depends chiefly at this time upon funds coming from the J.D.C. for its emigration work.

With the directors all in Paris, the HIAS-ICA, despite its problems, is continuing its work as usual and is receiving the usual assistance from the French authorities.

WEIZMANN SET TO VISIT U.S. SHORTLY; JEWISH LEGION PROJECT SHELVED

PARIS, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Weizmann, president of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, has decided to proceed to the United States within the next few weeks, it was reliably learned today. He will be accompanied by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the Agency's Geneva representative, who is now in London.

Dr. Weizmann's trip, it was learned, has no connection with the projected formation of a Jewish Legion in Palestine since the British Government, this correspondent is authoritatively informed, has made it clear that it has no interest in the creation of such a legion for the time being.

The question of organizing a legion, it was learned, will be ripe only if complications arise in the Near East or in the Mediterranean, which is not foreseen at the present time.

In Paris, the British military attache has made it clear that Palestinian citizens are not to undergo mobilization, whether they are in England or France. He advised, however, that all Palestinians return to the Holy Land.

Several hundred Palestinians left from Marseille last week and many are leaving today, as navigation between that French port and Palestine remains unaffected by the war. Similarly, navigation between Italy and Palestine has not been affected by the war and hundreds of Jews from Austria are still being permitted to enter Italy if they can prove that they are en route to the Holy Land by way of Trieste.

BRITISH MEMBERS OF COORDINATING FOUNDATION TO CONFER INFORMALLY IN LONDON TODAY

LONDON, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- An informal meeting of the British members of the Council of the Coordinating Foundation will be held here tomorrow, it was announced today, to discuss the future of the foundation's work on behalf of Jewish refugees in the light of war conditions.

Because of the absence of the American members of the Council, no definite decisions will be taken and no definite proposals will be considered. It is understood that the Council is deferring decisions until the results of the White House conference, scheduled for next month, are known.

Paul van Zeeland, president of the foundation, conferred today with Sir Herbert Emerson, League High Commissioner for Refugees and director of the Intergovernmental Refugee Committee, Theodore Achilles, of the United States Embassy here, and individual members of the Council.

BRITISH ZIONISTS URGE UNLIMITED AID FOR POLISH JEWS

LONDON, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- The British Zionist Federation issued a manifesto to Zionists today to do everything possible to aid the rehabilitation of Polish Jewry and to give every support to the forces fighting Nazi aggression.

The manifesto also urged a strengthening of Zionist work, pointing out that the Zionist ideal was more than ever the main hope of the Jewish people. Declaring that the future of the Jewish people was bound up with the future of democracy, the document voiced the resolute determination of British Zionists to help "the heroic cause of the democracies."

- - -

Winter Reelected Federation Head

NEW YORK, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- Resolutions calling for a united fund-raising drive for relief of Polish Jews and for reorganization of the World Federation of Polish Jews Abroad, with headquarters shifted to America, to meet the war emergency were adopted by the federation's third biennial conference at its closing session in the Hotel Astor last night. The delegates from 14 countries -- European representatives unable to attend because of the war -- reelected Benjamin Winter, of New York, as president and elected an administrative committee comprising Gershom Bader, Aaron Blum, Morris Blumenstock, Jacob Brown, Abraham Goldberg, Dr. Joshua L. Goldberg, Abraham I. Kandel, Herman B. Oberman, Harry J. Rubenstein, Dr. Simon Segal, Zelig Tygel and Abraham Werman.

KUHN CALLED BERLIN AGENT; BUND TERMED SOURCE OF NAZI ESPIONAGE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German-American Bund, was described as a direct agent of the Nazi Government and the Bund a source of Nazi espionage at today's hearing before the House Committee investigating un-American activities. The charges were made by Gerhart H. Seger, former Social Democrat member of the Reichstag and now editor of the anti-Nazi German weekly published in New York, the Neue Volkszeitung.

They came as a preliminary to the recalling of Kuhn to the witness stand and it followed a statement by Rep. Thomas (Rep.,N.J.), who said there could be no doubt that the officers and members of the Communist Party and the German-American Bund were violating both the registration and espionage acts of the United States. Thomas asked immediate action by the State and Justice departments.

Seger said that the majority of Germans in the United States did not agree with Nazi principles, and asserted that Kuhn and the Bund were doing great damage to the reputations of these Germans. "There are two minorities in the United States," Chairman Dies interrupted, "One German and the other Jewish. I think the Bund has done more harm to Germans than it has to Jews."

Seger asked the committee to realize that only ten per cent of those persecuted by Hitler in Germany were Jews. "Not being a Jew myself," he said, "I can point to my own case." He explained that he had been imprisoned for six months in a concentration camp and then escaped to Czechoslovakia. After his escape, his wife and two-year-old daughter were imprisoned in an effort to force him to return. Seger told the committee that the ruthless arm of the Nazi Government had even reached to America to plague him. He revealed that one of his advertisers, a Yorkville merchant, had been warned by Nazi storm troopers from the Bund to withdraw his advertising from Seger's paper.

The primary purpose of the Bund, Seger said in answer to a question from Dies, was that of a recruiting agency for Nazi espionage. Kuhn, he said, has been appointed by Hitler as the Nazi leader in the United States just as Forster was named the leader in Danzig.

Rhea Whitley, committee counsel, repeatedly read from Kuhn's testimony concerning the Bund leader's reception by Hitler in 1936 as the committee gathered ammunition to hurl at Kuhn when he is recalled as a witness. Dies asked Seger to explain how anti-Semitism in Germany so quickly gained a foothold and Seger replied that Hitler used the Jews as political pawns. "The Jews in Germany," he said, "were Germans, acted as Germans, felt as Germans and many died for Germany in the war."

Seger said, however, that the Jewish issue had little to do with the rise of Hitler to power. He blamed this rise "30 per cent on the Treaty of Versailles, 30 per cent upon the fact that Germany was a very new democracy and 40 per cent upon Germany's desperate condition during the depression and the failure of the democracies to aid the German Government when it was a republic." He concluded his testimony with this statement: "The German Republic made one great mistake. We were too lenient with those who abused the privilege of free speech."

2 ANTI-SEMITIC AGITATORS GET 75-DAY JAIL TERMS HERE

NEW YORK, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- Seventy-five-day workhouse terms were meted out today to Ralph Ninfo, 29-year-old son of an American Labor Party member of the City Council, and Joseph Leveque, 49, on disorderly conduct charges arising from soapbox speeches urging violence against Jews. They said they planned to continue a hunger strike which they launched in jail last week.

Magistrate Curran, in sentencing the pair, said: "This country is dedicated to freedom of speech, freedom of religion and of the press, but the proper boundaries can be exceeded. Now with the world on fire, it is not safe to say some things. The people who call themselves the Christian Front and the Christian Mobilizers are dragging Christianity through the dust. They do not speak for Christianity."

Councilman Salvatore Ninfo has disavowed his son's activities, declaring he would like to see the youth spend the rest of his life in jail. Yesterday the Bronx County Advisory Committee of the American Labor Party adopted a resolution reaffirming faith in Ninfo's devotion to civil and religious liberty and condemning the fomenting of bigotry and intolerance.

"Some parents mourn their children when they lose them," Ninfo said at the meeting. "Others mourn them while they are still alive. My wife and I have the great misfortune to be in the latter category."

ROLE OF EDUCATION AS TOLERANCE SAFEGUARD STRESSED IN SPECIAL MAGAZINE ISSUE

NEW YORK, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- The importance of education as a safeguard of "freedom, tolerance, human growth," is stressed in a special issue of Survey Graphic devoted to the challenge of the world crisis to education.

The problem of inadequate aims and inept teaching and the "tragic failure inherent in the fact of idle youth, four out of ten not in school, jobless, ready tinder for demagogues," is quite as serious as the problem of economic or racial discrimination in education, the magazine asserts.

"By what failure in the educational process are young people turned out, so insecure and so undiscriminating that they flock to rabble rousers?" an introductory editorial asks. "What educational gaps let in hate and prejudice? What quickens curiosity? Strengthens integrity? Distinguishes truth from propaganda? Encourages neighborliness and good will? Turns knowledge and training into the stuff of action?

"Here are concerns more enduring than military communiques and diplomatic moves. The strengths and weaknesses of the democratic way of life lie within our own borders. Mightier than armies with banners, the quiet, undramatic forces of education are the safeguards of freedom, tolerance, human growth."

The conclusion reached by a number of contributors to the issue is that: "It is everybody's business and the Republic's concern that the future population of our cities is being drawn from the educationally underprivileged sections of the country." For self-protection, if for no humanitarian reason, an expanding program of federal aid to education is predicted as inevitable. Contributors include Ordway Tead, president of the New York City Board of Higher Education; Harold W. Doods, president of Princeton University; Ray Lyman Wilbur, president of Stanford University; John Studebaker, United States Commissioner of Education, and Eunice Fuller Barnard, educational director of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

LVOVITCH, ORT LEADER, HERE ON VISIT; CONFERS ON GROUP'S NEW PLANS

NEW YORK, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- Dr. David Lvovitch, vice-president of the World ORT Union, arrived from Europe today on the Holland-American liner Zaandam. He conferred this afternoon with officials of the American ORT Federation regarding the effect of the war on ORT work in Europe. The ORT stated that his visit would probably signalize a new chapter in the organization's history, "since plans are now being formulated for making use of ORT occupational retraining methods as a means for qualifying refugees on this side of the Atlantic."

COUGHLIN BACKERS ABANDON PICKETING OF RADIO STATION WMCA

NEW YORK, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- Picketing of Radio Station WMCA by supporters of Charles E. Coughlin in protest against the dropping of his broadcasts has been abandoned. Yesterday, for the first Sunday since Dec. 19, 1938, the station's building was not picketed. Allen Zoll, organizer of the demonstrations, is under indictment on a charge of attempting to extort $7,500 from Donald Flamm, president of the station.

ASSCHER HONORED BY AMSTERDAM ON 80TH BIRTHDAY

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 25. (JTA) -- The Great Silver Medal of the City of Amsterdam has been conferred upon A. Asscher, grand old man of Dutch Jewry, in connection with his 80th birthday, which fell on Sept. 17. The medal, which is awarded only on rare occasions, was